

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently amended) Apparatus comprising:

a first suspension member;

a second suspension member having a through hole with a first ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface defining a first end of said through hole and a second ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface defining a second end of said through hole, said first and second ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surfaces converging toward a center of said second suspension member, a cylindrical surface interposed between said first and second ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surfaces and defining a central portion of said through hole;

a socket connected with said first suspension member;

a one-piece stud having a first end portion and a second end portion;

said socket supporting said first end portion of said stud in said socket for pivotal movement relative to said socket;

said second end portion of said stud projecting from said socket and completely through said through hole, said second end portion of said stud having a third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface in engagement with said first ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface of said second suspension member; and

a fastener secured to said second end portion of said stud, said fastener having a fourth ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface in engagement with said second ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface of said second suspension member, said second end portion of said stud extending completely through said fastener and said fastener causing said first and third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surfaces to be pressed together and causing said second and fourth ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surfaces to be pressed together to secure said second suspension member relative to said second end portion of said stud;

said socket and said stud supporting said first suspension member for movement relative to said second suspension member.

Claim 2 (Currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said stud has a longitudinal central axis on which said third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface is centered, said third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface extending at a first angle relative to said axis, said first and second ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surfaces of said second suspension member also extending at said first angle relative to said axis.

Claim 3 (Currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 2 wherein said fourth ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface also extends at said first angle relative to said axis when said fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud.

Claim 4 (Currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 2 wherein said third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface extends at a 45 degree angle to said axis.

Claim 5 (Original) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said fastener is a nut and said second end portion of said stud has a threaded end portion for receiving said nut.

Claim 6 (Currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said second end portion of said stud has a cylindrical portion extending from said third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface in a direction away from said first end portion of said stud, said cylindrical portion having a smaller diameter than the smallest diameter of said third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface, said cylindrical portion of said second end portion of said stud being spaced away from and extending parallel to said cylindrical surface of said second suspension member when said third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface is in abutting engagement with said first ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface.

Claim 7 (Currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said stud has a longitudinal central axis on which said third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical is centered, said third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical outer surface extending at a first angle relative to said axis, said first and second ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surfaces also extending at said first angle relative to said axis, said fourth ~~tapered~~ frustoconical

surface also extending at said first angle to said axis when said fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud, said fastener being a nut and said second end portion of said stud having a threaded end portion for receiving said nut.

Claim 8 (Currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 7 wherein said second end portion of said stud has a cylindrical portion extending from said third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface in a direction away from said first end portion of said stud, said cylindrical portion having a smaller diameter than the smallest diameter of said third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface, said cylindrical portion of said second end portion of said stud being spaced away from and extending parallel to said cylindrical surface of said second suspension member when said third ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface is in abutting engagement with said first ~~tapered~~ frustoconical surface.

Claim 9 (Currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said second end portion of said stud ~~including~~ includes a terminal end having a hexagonal configuration, said terminal end being located on a side of said fastener opposite said first end portion when said fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud.

Claim 10 (New) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first frustoconical surface and said cylindrical surface

converge with one another in said through hole of said second suspension member and wherein said second frustoconical surface and said cylindrical surface converge with one another in said through hole in said second suspension member.

Claim 11 (New) Apparatus of claim 10 wherein said cylindrical surface extends from said first frustoconical surface to said second frustoconical surface so that said first and second frustoconical surfaces and said cylindrical surface entirely form said through hole in said second suspension member.